

*Individual*  
*Postmasters General*

*Alphabetical*

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Belloc, Hilaire

{bel'-uhk}

Hilaire Belloc, b. July 27, 1870, d. July 16, 1953, was renowned during his lifetime as a Roman Catholic polemicist, historian, biographer, essayist, travel writer, poet, and novelist. Born in France and married to an American, he became a British subject in 1902. From 1906 to 1910 he was a Liberal member of Parliament from Salford. Belloc is remembered today for a few lyric poems and, most of all, for such light comic verse as *The Bad Child's Book of Beasts* (1896) and *Cautionary Tales* (1908). In *The Servile State* (1912) he attacked both capitalism and socialism, favoring the Middle Ages as the most enlightened period of Western culture. His *History of England* (1925-31), not a history at all, searches out the roots of English culture in the Latin and Christian traditions. *The Postmaster General* (1932) is considered the best of his light novels, and his *Cromwell* (1934) is still read for the liveliness of its attack on the statesman. Together with his friend G. K. CHESTERTON, Belloc remains a major figure in the English Catholic literary tradition.

Martin Seymour-Smith

Bibliography: Baybrooke, Patrick, *Some Thoughts on Hilaire Belloc: Ten Studies* (1969; repr. 1973); Haynes, Renee, *Hilaire Belloc* (1953); Lowndes, Marie A., *The Young Hilaire Belloc* (1956); Morton, John B., *Hilaire Belloc: A Memoir* (1955; repr. 1984); Spaight, Robert, *The Life of Hilaire Belloc* (1957); Wilson, A. N., *Hilaire Belloc* (1984).

Blair (family)

Two generations of the Blair family were active in American politics during the 19th century. Francis Preston Blair, b. Abingdon, Va., Apr. 12, 1791, d. Oct. 18, 1876, was the son of James Blair, attorney general of Kentucky (1796-1816). Francis Preston Blair became a prominent Jacksonian newspaper editor in Kentucky and was brought to Washington by Amos KENDALL to edit the Washington Globe, the semiofficial Democratic organ. Because of his antislavery views he later joined the Republican party and organized the abortive Hampton Roads peace conference (Feb. 3, 1865).

His son Francis Preston Blair, Jr., b. Lexington, Ky., Feb. 19, 1821, d. July 9, 1875, practiced law in St. Louis and was instrumental in keeping Missouri in the union. During the Civil War he held a command under Gen. William T. Sherman. Another son, Montgomery Blair, b. Franklin County, Ky., May 10, 1813, d. July 27, 1883, acted as counsel in the Dred Scott case (see DRED SCOTT V. SANDFORD). As postmaster general under Lincoln, he introduced postal money orders and free urban mail delivery. Critical of radical RECONSTRUCTION, Montgomery Blair and his brother and father became Democrats after the Civil War.

Harry Ammon

Bibliography: Smith, E. B., Francis Preston Blair (1980); Smith, W. E., The Francis Preston Blair Family in Politics, 2 vols. (1933; repr. 1969).

## Ex-postal official dies

WASHINGTON (UPI) — William Bolger, a former postmaster general who began his postal career as a

clerk in 1941, suffered a heart attack Monday and died. He was 66.



**William Bolger** Bolger, who served as the nation's top postal official from 1978 until 1984, died at Arlington (Va.) Hospital in suburban Washington. He was transferred to that hospital after suffering a heart attack July 28 in Omaha, Neb.

Bolger was the 65th in a line of succession dating back to Benjamin Franklin in 1775. He was deputy postmaster general and regional postmaster general for the Northeast region before becoming the first career postal employee to become postmaster general. 22 Aug 1997

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**Farley, James A.**

James Aloysius Farley, b. Rockland County, N.Y., May 30, 1888, d. June 9, 1976, was a New York businessman who managed Franklin D. Roosevelt's campaigns for the presidency in 1932 and 1936. Farley served as chairman of the Democratic National Committee (1932-40) and postmaster general (1933-40), but he broke with Roosevelt in 1940 when the latter decided to run for a third term.



**FARLEY, FAHR lee, JAMES ALOYSIUS** (1888-1976), a politician and businessman, served as postmaster general of the United States from 1933 to 1940. During his term he greatly improved airmail service. He was also chairman of the Democratic National Committee from 1932 to 1940. Farley managed the national presidential campaigns of Franklin D. Roosevelt during the elections of 1932 and 1936. He resigned before the 1940 election campaign. Farley also served as chairman of the New York State Democratic Committee from 1930 until he resigned in 1944.



United Press Int.  
**James A. Farley**

Farley was born in Grassy Point, N.Y., and entered the building supply business. He became chairman of the Coca-Cola Export Corporation in 1940. He wrote two books about his career, *Behind the Ballots* (1940) and

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HARVEY WISH



**JAMES A. FARLEY**

## FDR Campaign Leader Dies in New York City

10 June 1976

**NEW YORK (UPI)** — James A. Farley, who helped engineer Franklin D. Roosevelt's rise to the White House four decades ago and emerged as a party patriarch in later years, died Wednesday night in his Waldorf Towers apartment. He was 88.



**JAMES A. FARLEY**

Farley, known as "Mr. Democrat" and "Gentle Jim," was found dead by a maid. A house physician called to the suite pronounced him dead of cardiac arrest.

Although Farley never won election above the level of state assemblyman, he became a party power while national Democratic chairman and managed Roosevelt's first two White House bids. He also served as FDR's Postmaster General.

Former New York Gov. Averell Harriman called Farley "one of the great political personalities of my generation ... I mourn his loss, as do thousands of his friends across the country."

Former Democratic chairman Lawrence F. O'Brien, now commissioner of the National Basketball Association, said the "New Deal was an era that marked the greatness of Jim Farley."

Farley broke with Roosevelt in 1940 when FDR ran for his third White House term and the two became bitter enemies. Though swept from national power, Farley remained the party's unofficial patriarch and a behind-the-scenes power in New York politics. His advice and counsel was sought by a succession of Democrats in national, state, and local office.

Farley is survived by a son and two daughters. Funeral arrangements were incomplete.

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